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January 13, 2006

Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair  
Washington State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 47990  
Olympia, WA 98504-7990

Dear Dr. Thorburn:

Thank you for your letter of December 27, 2005, proposing a revised timeline for the *2006 Washington State Health Report*.

I agree that the Report will be more useful to state agencies, and more valuable to the people of Washington, if the Board of Health has an opportunity to accurately capture the work of state agencies and incorporate feedback from public forums being held through June 2006.

As you noted in your letter, I am not able to waive the statutory deadline formally, but I am comfortable allowing a one-time extension to June 30, 2006. I understand that the statutory requirement is intended to ensure sufficient lead-time to consider the report while preparing budgets and proposed legislation. This extension is consistent with that intent and I believe will result in a more meaningful report. I would, however, suggest process improvements for the future.

I appreciate the role that the Board of Health plays in helping to identify and establish health priorities and I look forward to receiving the *2006 Washington State Health Report* in June.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

cc: Mary Selecky, Secretary, Department of Health  
Christina Hulet, Health Policy Advisor

